

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-17 and 19-23 stand in the present application. Claims 1, 3-9, 11-13, 15-17, 19, 20, 22 and 23 have been allowed, and only claims 14 and 21 stand rejected. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 14 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) and 102(e) as being anticipated by US Pat. Pub. 2004/0264533 (hereinafter '533). The Examiner elsewhere notes that Applicant cannot rely upon the priority papers in this case to overcome the anticipatory rejection, because the translation of the papers has not been made of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55. Since Applicants are herewith attaching to this Response a copy of the certified translation of the priority document, it is respectfully submitted that the anticipatory rejection based on the '533 publication has now been overcome.

In addition, in order to provide the necessary time for the Examiner to inspect the papers and enter this Response, a Notice of Appeal is being concurrently filed with this Response.

More particularly, Applicant has submitted a certified translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-092656, filed on March 26, 2004 in Japan. Accordingly, Applicants have now perfected the priority date which predates the earliest effective date of June 28, 2004, for the cited '533 publication. Accordingly, since the '533 publication does not constitute prior art against the present application, claims 14 and 21 patentably define thereover.

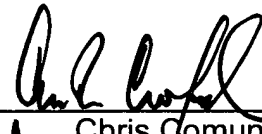
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Therefore, in view of these Remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all of the claims 1, 3-9, 11-17 and 19-23, standing in the application, be allowed and that the case be passed to issue. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a supplemental response or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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